

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Hiroyasu SHIRAKAWA, et al.

Serial No.: New

Filing Date: November 17, 2003

For: FILTER DEVICE

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows: